allotted to the BPL,Antyodaya and APL families. The allocations are being made as per the estimated number of families in each category as on 1.3.2000 or the number of the families actually identified by the States, whichever is less.

(b) and (c) Apart from the normal allocations under TPDS, from time to time additional allocation is made to the States/UTs for relief in case of natural calamities, religious festivals and melas etc. considering merits of each case from time to time.

(d) No, Sir.

Allocation of foodgrains for various schemes

1691. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of foodgrains in each of the Mid-day Meal Scheme for poor children, Annapoorna Yojana for poor senior citizens, food for work in drought hit areas and subsidized scheme for SC/ST/OBC students' hostels during the last four years or their inception, year-wise;

(b) whether there are mismatches in allocations and offtake;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed by Government to remove mismatches either by decreasing allocation or by encouraging desired offtake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Details showing the quantum of foodgrains distributed under various schemes are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 197, Annexure No. 22]

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Sharing of transportation cost of foodgrains

1692. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether high expenditure on transportation is coming in the way of

procurement by FCI for Public Distribution System in the different States; and

(b) the action proposed to share the high expenditure on transportation with the State Governments to make PDS successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As far as possible, the stocks are issued by the FCI to the States/UTs from the nearest depot/rail head and in case the distance is above 14 Kms., the transportation cost incurred by the States/UTs is reimbursed by Government under the Reimbursement of Transportation Charges (RTC) Scheme.

In view of the high cost of transportation involved in the predominantly hilly States, the cost of transportation of foodgrains from the designated base depots to the approved Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) is reimbursed to the concerned States on actual basis.

Buffer stock of sugar

1693. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build up two million tonne sugar buffer stock;

(b) whether it is a time bound programme; if so, the details thereof with outlay involved; and

(c) whether there have been problems faced by the farmers to receive arrears from the sugar mills or cases of short payment to them; if so, the action taken by Government to help them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) As on 30.9.2002, the cane price arrears are estimated to be around Rs. 1100 crores. In order to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane growers, Government has decided to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar for a period of one year. This will involve an outgo of